

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 13, 2002, Paper No. 3, has been received and reviewed. By the present Response and Amendment, Claims 2, 3, 14, 19 and 20 are canceled, Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, and 15-18 are amended, and new Claims 21-24 are added. No new matter has been introduced.

The objections to the drawings have been addressed above, and new drawing sheets are enclosed.

Claims 2-5, 10, 11, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as indefinite. These grounds of rejection are believed to be overcome by the present amendments to the claims or rendered moot by cancellation of rejected claims.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 12-15, 17, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 356,520 to Adams. These rejections are believed to be overcome by the present amendments. Amended Claim 1 recites "the second dimension being smaller than the first dimension whereby at least a portion of the first display surface extends beyond the second display panel". Amended Claim 12 recites "wherein the overlying display panel has a dimension smaller than a corresponding dimension of the underlying display panel, whereby the overlying display panel can overlie a portion of the underlying display panel while leaving a portion of the display surface of the underlying display panel uncovered". The overlying racks or frames D of the Adams rack are progressively wider than their immediately underlying racks, rather than having a smaller dimension as presently claimed. Thus, no portion of any display surface of the underlying rack or frame D of the Adams device "extends beyond" the overlying rack or is left "uncovered".

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-11, 12-14, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 679,549 to Breeding. Similarly, Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, 12-16, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,827,641 to Mori. The Breeding and Mori references both relate to devices having entirely different purposes and structures than the presently claimed

invention, namely to card indexes for record-keeping or accounting, rather than to display devices for showing samples of carpet or other materials. Neither the cards b of the Breeding index nor the cards 15 of the Mori index include any display surface for displaying a sample of a material thereon. By contrast, amended Claim 1 defines its first display panel as having a "first display surface . . . for displaying a sample of a first displayed material thereon" and recites that the "second display panel" overlies the first display panel such that "at least a portion of the first display surface extends beyond the second display panel". And amended Claim 12 describes each panel as having a "display surface for displaying a sample of displayed material" and recites that "the overlying display panel has a dimension smaller than a corresponding dimension of the underlying display panel, whereby the overlying display panel can overlie a portion of the underlying display panel while leaving a portion of the display surface of the underlying display panel uncovered". The cited references clearly do not disclose or suggest the provision of any display surface for displaying a sample of material as is presently claimed. Moreover, even if the body of a card b of Breeding or a card 15 of Mori were considered to be a display surface (although such a comparison would be improper because the references nowhere disclose or suggest displaying any material sample thereon), no portion of the underlying card body is uncovered or extends beyond the overlying card.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 12-17, 19 and 20 stand rejected in under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,224,106 to Murphy. Like the Mori and Breeding references, Murphy '106 is directed to a device having an entirely different purpose and structure than the presently claimed invention. Murphy is directed to a book having sculpted forms affixed to its pages. The Murphy reference does not disclose or suggest a device for displaying samples of material as presently claimed. Moreover, the pages 30, 31, 32; and 82, 84, 86 of Murphy are depicted as being of substantially the same size (see Figs. 6 and 9), and each page has a 3-dimensional figure mounted thereto. Each 3-D figure nests within an adjacent figure, and overlying figures cover the underlying figures, obscuring them from view. The Murphy reference

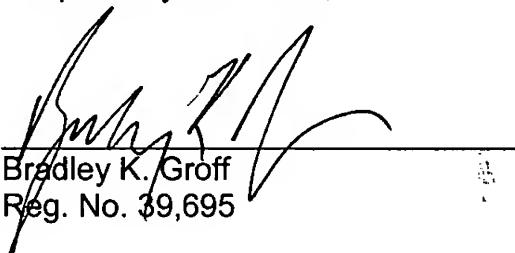
does not disclose or suggest any display panel having a display surface that extends beyond or is left uncovered by an overlying display panel as presently claimed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection are overcome. New Claims 21-24 are also believed to define patentably subject matter over the art of record. For example, new Claim 23 includes a "rack comprising at least one support member having a body portion extending therefrom", and an array of display panels mounted to the rack, with an underlying display panel having a display surface "with a sample of a first displayed material mounted thereon", and an overlying display panel having a dimension smaller than a corresponding dimension of the underlying panel "such that at least a portion of said first displayed material is visible with the overlying display panel overlying the underlying display panel." This claimed combination of features is not disclosed or suggested by the art of record, and Claims 23 and 24 are, therefore, believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments submitted herein and the above comments, it is believed that all grounds of rejection are overcome and that the application has now been placed in full condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits early and favorable action. Should there be any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney at (770) 984-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Bradley K. Groff  
Reg. No. 39,695

GARDNER GROFF, P.C.  
Paper Mill Village, Building 23  
600 Village Trace, Suite 300  
Marietta, GA 30067  
Tel: 770/984-2300  
Fax: 770/984-0098

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